

Minutes of Meeting Tulare County Flood Control Commissioners

Friday, September 25, 2015, 8:00 AM

Tulare County Resource Management Agency Conference Room

Attendees:

Commissioners present: Dale Brogan; Mark Larsen; Dan Vink, Chairman; Doug Jackson; Fergus Morrissey and Dale West, Vice-Chairman.
Commissioner absent: Walter Bricker.

County representation: Reed Schenke and Alfredo Reynoso-Haro with Resource Management Agency (RMA.) and Marit Erickson with County Counsel.

Visitors: Ben Ruiz and Diego Corvera with RMA; Shane Smith with Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District and Marco Crenshaw with Tulare Irrigation District.

Agenda Items:

Item 1. Meeting called to order at 8:00 AM.

Item 2. Minutes of August 28, 2015 meeting:

A motion by Dale Brogan to approve the minutes was seconded by Mark Larsen and approved by unanimous vote.

Item 3. Public comment period: None

Item 4. Staff report on Flood Control District matters:

A. El Niño preparations:

a. The El Niño Emergency Response Plan

For the last month we have been focusing on hotspot assessment which is a review of areas of concern. Yesterday, we had a very productive coordination meeting with North County Irrigation Districts. The irrigation districts were represented by Stone Corral I.D., Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District, Alta I.D. and Tulare ID. Shawn Hansen, from Road District No. 4 and Johnny Wong and Tony Boland, from Roads Department, were there, they handle the northern county area. The intent of this coordination meeting is to build upon the already established coordination. We want the folks on the ground to meet each other and exchange phone numbers and contact information so if there is an issue, they know who to call. There was an agreement between the irrigation districts and the county in identifying any known areas of concern we can go out and do some preventive maintenance or have response plans in place. Staff provided a map with areas of concern showing information from our road crew's perspective. We are improving upon the

map by requesting the irrigation districts provide their input. There is a potential for mutual aid, we talked about some equipment that is available between the different agencies. Next week, we are set up for a meeting with the folks in the southern part of the county.

Commissioner Brogan mentioned that there is some data missing on the map handed out specific to the Earlimart area. Staff responded that the map may be marked up and returned to staff so map can be updated.

Commissioner Larsen suggested having an annual meeting, around the fall period, before high precipitation problems start building up, to discuss about preparing for potential flood events.

b. Channel clearing efforts update

The county has made some efforts to clear channels, we had the road crews go and conduct inspections on bridges and culverts, identified some areas where there is debris and trash. We are limited on how much we can do. CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife told us that by the end of this month we should have the Streambed Alteration Agreement for maintenance.

Chairman Vink said that on some of the river systems the local agencies have permits to do channel clearing, so the county might think about coordinating maintenance.

Vice-Chairman Dale West said that on the Channel Maintenance Debris Removal List, provided by Staff, there is no designated area for vegetation removal in the Cottonwood Creek area. Vegetation there is pretty thick and is going to affect the Stone Corral Irrigation system.

Staff responded that areas identified on the list are those within 200 feet of bridges or culverts. The next step is going to be more difficult to get permitting for. This is required to perform the vegetation clearing where we actually go into the channels.

Staff mentioned that during yesterday's meeting, a concern was expressed about Sand Creek going through the community of Orosi. In the past there has been concerns with gopher holes. Next week, we will do a site visit to assess the situation.

B. Report on the status of the flood control projects

a. Seville-Sontag Ditch:

We had our final plans completed, signed and approved. The main effort within the next few weeks will be on the easement agreements. We have four properties to coordinate with. Another part of the process is getting an

encroachment permit from Caltrans but because we are not making any change to their property it should be a straightforward process.

Chairman Vink reminded staff not to hesitate about using the Stone Corral Irrigation District's connections to expedite the process. Vice-chairman Dale West offered to talk to one of the property owners to expedite the easement process.

Staff informed the commission that the estimate for this project is \$80,000 for construction, the environmental is done, CEQA process is done.

b. Juvenile Detention Facility-Cottonwood Creek

The design is completed, it is a \$1.5M project. Now, the decision rests on whether and when we pay for it. It is a re-alignment of the Cottonwood Creek, there are no property issues. In the meantime, we just completed the construction of the berm on the south bank of the Cottonwood Creek, it is a 3-to 6-foot berm.

c. Yettem-Button Ditch

We are probably going to do the design of this project in-house, we will start talking to the property owners about easements.

Item 5. Consider other business: none

Item 6. Set next Flood Control Commission meeting:

The next Flood Control Commission meeting was set for Friday, October 23, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in the main conference room at RMA's office,

Item 7. Adjourn meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.